

IN THE CLAIMS:

1.(Currently Amended) A supply unit for accommodating medical instruments, the supply unit comprising:

a height-adjustable middle part with side cheeks for engaging a middle part of a medical instrument with lateral guide surfaces which are complementary to the side cheeks;

5 pins arranged at the middle part of the supply unit and projecting upwardly;

a power supply with a plug ~~=type~~ connection at the middle part of the supply unit;

a data transmission facility with a plug ~~=type~~ connection at the middle part of the supply unit;

a pneumatic supply with a plug ~~=type~~ connection at the middle part of the supply unit;

10 end position sensors provided at the middle part of the supply unit, said end position sensors sending a corresponding signal to an evaluating and control unit when the height-adjustable middle part of the supply unit has been moved upward to the extent that said pins are completely accommodated by complementary and downwardly open pin mounts at the middle part of the medical instrument so that said plug ~~=type~~ connection for said power supply, said  
15 plug ~~=type~~ connection for said data transmission facility, and said plug ~~=type~~ connection for said pneumatic supply are released by the evaluating and control unit.

2. (Original) A supply unit for accommodating medical instruments in accordance with claim 1, wherein the pneumatic supply provides for the transfer of medical gases as well as the generation of a vacuum.

3. (Original) A supply unit in accordance with claim 1, wherein said end position sensors comprise photoelectric cells.

4. (Currently Amended) A supply unit in accordance with claim 1, wherein said plug ~~type~~ connection for said power supply includes power supply connection jacks with flaps as splash proofing for said power supply connection jacks, said connection for said data transmission facility includes transmission connection jacks with flaps as splash proofing for said transmission connection jacks, and said connection for said pneumatic supply includes pneumatic supply connection jacks with flaps as splash proofing for said pneumatic supply connection jacks.

5. (Original) A supply unit in accordance with claim 1, wherein the supply unit is ceiling-mounted.

6. (Currently Amended) A medical instrument supply unit and medical instrument combination comprising:

a medical instrument with a middle part with lateral guide surfaces and with pin[[s]] mounts, a power plug/jack connection a data transmission plug/jack connection and a pneumatic plug/jack connection;

a supply unit with a height stationary part and a height-adjustable middle part with side surfaces for engaging the medical instrument middle part of [[a]] said medical instrument, the

side surfaces being complementary to the lateral guide surfaces of the medical instrument and with pins arranged at the middle part of the supply unit projecting upwardly, a power supply with a power plug/jack connection provided at said height-adjustable middle part ~~with pins and pin mounts~~, a data transmission facility with a data transmission plug/jack connection provided at said height-adjustable middle part ~~with pins and pin mounts~~, a pneumatic supply with a pneumatic plug /jack connection provided at said height-adjustable middle part and end position sensors provided at ~~[[the]]~~ said height-adjustable middle part of the supply unit, said end position sensors sending a corresponding signal to an evaluating and control unit when the height-adjustable middle part of the supply unit has been moved upward to the extent that said pins are completely accommodated by said pin mounts ~~[[so that]]~~ whereby said connection for said power supply, said connection for said data transmission and said connection for said pneumatic supply are in an active state.

7. (Original) A combination in accordance with claim 6, wherein the pneumatic supply provides for the transfer of medical gases as well as the generation of a vacuum.

8. (Original) A combination in accordance with claim 6, wherein said end position sensors comprise photoelectric cells.

9. (Currently Amended) A combination in accordance with claim 6, wherein said plug/jack ~~-type~~ connection for said power supply includes power supply connection jacks with

flaps as splash proofing for said power supply connection jacks, said data transmission plug/jack connection for said data transmission facility includes transmission connection jacks with flaps  
5 as splash proofing for said transmission connection jacks, and said pneumatic plug/jack connection for said pneumatic supply includes pneumatic supply connection jacks with flaps as splash proofing for said pneumatic supply connection jacks.

10. (Original) A combination in accordance with claim 6, wherein the supply unit is ceiling-mounted.

11. (New) A medical instrument supply unit and medical instrument combination comprising:

a medical instrument with a middle part with lateral guide surfaces and with a lower surface having pin mounts and an adjacent lower surface power plug/socket connection facility,  
5 an adjacent lower surface data transmission plug/socket connection facility and an adjacent lower surface pneumatic plug/socket connection facility;

a supply unit comprising a power supply, a data transmission facility, a pneumatic supply, a ceiling suspended part and a height-adjustable middle part connected to said ceiling suspended part and adjustably movable relative to the ceiling suspended part, said middle part  
10 having side surfaces for engaging the medical instrument middle part of the medical instrument, the side surfaces being complementary to the lateral guide surfaces of the medical instrument middle part, said supply unit middle part having an upper surface with support pins projecting

upwardly for mating with said pin mounts, said supply unit having an upper surface power plug/socket connection facility matable with said lower surface power plug/socket connection facility, an upper surface data transmission plug/socket connection facility matable with said lower surface data transmission plug/socket connection facility and an upper surface pneumatic plug/socket connection facility matable with said lower surface pneumatic plug/socket connection facility;

a control unit for controlling the operability of each of said power supply, said data transmission facility and said pneumatic supply; and

end position sensors connected to said supply unit for sending a signal to said control unit when the height-adjustable middle part of the supply unit has been moved upward to an extent indicating that said pins are accommodated by said pin mounts and connections of said power supply, said data transmission facility and said pneumatic supply are in a mated state.

12. (New) A combination in accordance with claim 11, wherein said pneumatic supply provides for the transfer of medical gases as well as the generation of a vacuum.

13. (New) A combination in accordance with claim 11, wherein said end position sensors comprise photoelectric cells.

14. (New) A combination in accordance with claim 11, wherein said medical device is floor supported and one or more of said side surfaces and said upper surface support said

medical device in cooperation with said pins support said medical device for lifting as said height-adjustable middle part is moved relative to said ceiling suspended part.

15. (New) A combination in accordance with claim 14, wherein said upper surface comprises plural upper surface portions.

16. (New) A combination in accordance with claim 6, wherein said medical device is floor supported and said medical instrument middle part has a lower surface and said supply unit middle part has an upper surface cooperating said side surfaces for support of said medical device during lifting.

17. (New) A combination in accordance with claim 16, wherein said upper surface comprises plural upper surface portions.

18. (New) A combination in accordance with claim 16, wherein said upper surface power plug/socket connection facility is on one side of said supply unit middle part and said upper surface pneumatic plug/socket connection facility is on another side of said supply unit middle part.